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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/762,768	01/22/2004	Thomas C. Adams	SC 040 CIP	3111
7590	07/31/2006		EXAMINER	
Guy McClung 16690 Champion Forest Drive Spring, TX 77379-7023			KOHNER, MATTHEW J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3653	

DATE MAILED: 07/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/762,768	ADAMS ET AL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Matthew J. Kohner	3653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 May 2006.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 21-24 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 21-24 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/16/04; 12/20/04; 1/17/05, 1/31/05
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of claims 21-24 in the reply filed on May 15, 2006 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,372,260 to Galton et al. (*hereinafter “Galton”*).

Galton discloses a screen assembly (30) for releasable mounting to a mounting structure (17) of a screening system, the mounting structure comprising a body over which a screen assembly is positionable, at least one upwardly projecting member (40) projecting upwardly from the body, said at least one upwardly projecting member sized and configured so it is receivable in a corresponding hole in the screen assembly, said at least one projecting member having a projecting member cross-sectional area, the screen assembly (30) comprising:

a support (See Fig 1);

the support comprising a frame (30) with two spaced-apart ends the two spaced-apart ends spaced-apart by two spaced-apart sides, each of the two spaced-apart sides connected to each of the two spaced-apart ends, the frame having a plurality of spaced-apart cross members extending between the two spaced-apart sides from one side to the other side at least part of the

frame comprising a tubular member (64) with a top and a bottom, a portion of the screening material on top of the tubular member, at least one hole (66) in the bottom of the tubular member, said at least one hole sized, configured, and located for receiving said at least one upwardly projecting member (40) of the body of the mounting structure (see Fig. 7), said at least one hole having a hole cross-sectional area greater than said projecting member cross-sectional area.

While Galton does not specifically disclose a shale shaker, Galton does disclose this locking method applies to various screening decks (col. 1, lines 20-22). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used Galton's locking pin method in a shale shaker.

In regard to claims 22 and 24, Galton does not specifically disclose a shale shaker with a screen mounting basket and a vibrating apparatus. However, Galton does disclose this locking method applies to various screening decks (col. 1, lines 20-22). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used Galton's locking pin method in a shale shaker. Further, many screening devices apply vibration in order to screen material. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used Galton's locking pin method in an screener with a vibrating apparatus.

In regard to claim 23, the hole is in the bottom of the tubular member (see Fig. 7).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew J. Kohner whose telephone number is 571-272-6939. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Crawford can be reached on 571-272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Matthew J. Kohner
Examiner
Art Unit 3653

mjk



GENE O. CRAWFORD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER